

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/644,079

Examiner

Benny Q. Tieu

Applicant(s)

FRIEDRICH ET AL.

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Patent Application filed Aug. 20, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Reasons For Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Wilson (UK Patent Application GB 2302477) teaches telephone conferencing systems wherein a voice services equipment (VSE) allows a number of incoming telephone calls to be connected together to provide a conferencing function. The telephone calls making up the conference are recorded by a disc store of the VSE, and each caller speaking is identified by means of calling line identity (CLI) or the caller's PIN code. If a complaint is made after the conference, an operator at a review station can review the conference and determine which caller caused offence. That caller can be added to a black list held on a database, so that further calls from that caller will not be allowed access (Abstract). Bales et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,373,549) teach a multi-level conference in which an originator of a telephone conference of the multi-level conference controls the parties that can be added to that conference and can terminate any party at any time (column 2, lines 20-47). Knappe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,058,168) teaches a system and method for participant control of privacy during a multiparty communication connection includes receiving a request from a first participant to the multiparty connection for a sidebar between the first participant and a second participant to the multiparty connection. The sidebar is provided by at least substantially eliminating voice streams generated by the first participant and the second participant from the conference output streams generated for a set of remaining participants to the multiparty connection (column 1, lines 48-57). However, prior art of record fails to teach, or renders obvious, alone or in combination, a method and device for eliminating disruptive parties from conferences, with at least one recognition function and at least one conference function, via which the conference can be controlled and monitored in an automated manner. The recognition

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or announcement/dialog function switches to the individual conferences in succession under the control of the conference management function, monitors the combined stream of all voice data emitted by the conferees in an interim check. If disruptive data is detected, the conference management function associates the disruptive data with the conferee emitting the data. The recognition or announcement/dialog function to the individual participants in the conference is switched in succession. If the conferee emitting the disruptive data is detected in this process and this conferee is identified as a disruptive party as a result, the conferee is automatically switched to silent or removed entirely from the conference as directly recited in the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benny Q. Tieu whose telephone number is 571-272-7490. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday: 6:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wing Chan can be reached on 571-272-7493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benny Q. Tieu', with a stylized, flowing script.

Benny Q. Tieu
Primary Examiner
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September 22, 2006